

Claims

1.-10. (cancelled)

11. (new) A web server comprising software modules having at least a first software module comprises a first mechanism for implementing an automation functionality and a second mechanism to directly access the real-time communication level of a real-time Ethernet.

12. (new) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the web server comprises a connection to a communication network.

13. (new) The web server according to claim 12, wherein the communication network is the Internet.

14. (new) The web server according to claim 11, wherein Internet protocols are provided for communication between the software modules and for communication between the software modules and components outside of the web server.

15. (new) The web server according to claim 12, wherein Internet protocols are provided for communication between the software modules and for communication between the software modules and components outside of the web server.

16. (new) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the web server is adapted for configuration and administration of the software modules.

17. (new) The web server according to claim 12, wherein the web server is adapted for configuration and administration of the software modules.

18. (new) The web server according to claim 14, wherein the web server is adapted for configuration and administration of the software modules.

19. (new) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the first software module comprises a connection to an industrial automation system.

20. (new) The web server according to claim 12, wherein the first software module comprises a connection to an industrial automation system.

21. (new) The web server according to claim 14, wherein the first software module comprises a connection to an industrial automation system.

22. (new) The web server according to claim 16, wherein the first software module comprises a connection to an industrial automation system.

23. (new) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the web server comprises a connection to the Internet via a firewall.

24. (new) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the web server is connected via a communication network to a web browser as a control and monitoring system.

25. (new) The web server according to claim 12, wherein the web server is connected via a communication network to a web browser as a control and monitoring system.

26. (new) The web server according to claim 14, wherein the web server is connected via a communication network to a web browser as a control and monitoring system.

27. (new) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the web server comprises a real-time operating system.

28. (new) The web server according to claim 12, wherein the web server comprises a real-time operating system.

29. (new) An automation system comprising a web server having software modules, wherein at least a first software module comprises a first mechanism for implementing an automation functionality and a second mechanism to directly access the real-time communication level of a real-time Ethernet.

30. (new) A computer program product comprising a web server having software modules, wherein at least a first software module comprises a first mechanism for implementing an automation functionality and a second mechanism to directly access the real-time communication level of a real-time Ethernet.